

Miss Chapin

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

Wrangell

ALASKA

FEB 21 1933

FISHERIES

February 11, 1933.

Subject: General Report of Salmon Fisheries, 1932.

The Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

The following report of operations of the Bureau of Fisheries for the season of 1932, Wrangell District, Southeastern Alaska, covering salmon fisheries, is herewith respectfully submitted:

Fisheries Patrol and Inspection

The U.S.F.S. AUKLET, Capt. Leo J. Collins, was assigned to the Wrangell District for general patrol work during the season of 1932. The chartered gas boat LADY LUCK was also used for short periods, when exigencies of the service required additional patrol duty. There were also utilized during the season eleven gas launches, averaging about 30 feet in length, and six skiffs with outboard motors, averaging about 16 feet in length, the launches being owned and operated by patrol guards and used by them as living quarters while the men were engaged in the Bureau's service and assigned to the following sections:

Lake Bay.....	Frank Reed.....	28-ft. launch
Stikine River.....	Wm. A. Vreeland.....	32-ft. "
Barrie Creek, N.W. Arm,		
Sumner Strait.....	Peter Peterson.....	32-ft. "
Rocky Bay.....	Elmer F. Carlstrom....	32-ft. "
Salmon Bay.....	Wm. C. Lawrence.....	32-ft. "
Thoms Place.....	John Sandman.....	32-ft. "
Anita Bay.....	Louis L. Larsen.....	30-ft. "
Bear Creek.....	Harry C. Cook.....	30-ft. "
Totem Bay.....	Harry P. Hope.....	30-ft. "
Olive Cove, Zimovia Strait..	Geo. Frabricius, as-	
	sisting Dr. F. A.	
	Davidson.....	22-ft. "
Petersburg, Wrangell Narrows	Olaf H. Nelson.....	32-ft. "
Anan Creek.....	Kenneth C. Lewis.....	Skiff and outboard motor
Olive Cove.....	Walter Campen.....	do.
Kah Sheets Bay.....	John Berg Olsen.....	do.
Ratz Harbor.....	Gus Lundgren.....	do.
Eagle Creek.....	Jack A. Kelley.....	do.
Duncan Canal.....	James Clark.....	do.

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The AUKLET was used in general patrol and in supervision of the Bureau's activities, transporting stream guards and other special workmen, and field supplies and equipment to the various stations. From February 19 to October 13, she covered a total of 8,405 nautical miles, made 103 visits to the 17 traps operated in the district, and 84 trips of inspection to the two salmon counting weirs maintained at Anan Creek and at Olive Cove, carrying mail and supplies and securing general information and weekly weir reports. Thirteen trips were also made for general observations to the sites where weirs were formerly maintained at Eagle Creek and Whale Passage Creek.

The LADY LUCK, Capt. T. J. McBride, was engaged principally for making emergency trips as exigencies of the service arose, such as patrolling important closed red salmon waters, endeavoring to apprehend violators, visiting and inspecting traps during weekly closed periods, and transporting mail and supplies to stream guards. The LADY LUCK was chartered 21 days during the season, and covered 1,114 nautical miles. She made 25 calls to 12 traps and two visits to Anan Creek weir.

Trips were made to the salmon counting weirs by the patrol boats, as follows:

	<u>Anan Cr. Weir</u>	<u>Olive Cove Weir</u>	<u>Eagle Cr. Weir Site</u>	<u>Whale Pass.Cr. Weir Site</u>	<u>Total</u>
AUKLET	53	31	9	3	96
LADY LUCK	<u>2</u> 55	<u>1</u> 32	<u>1</u> 10	<u>2</u> 5	<u>6</u> 102

Canneries Operated

Wrangel Packing Corporation, (Mill Dock)
Wrangell, Alaska.

Diamond K Packing Company, (Floater)
Wrangell, Alaska.

Nakat Packing Corporation, (Shore)
Union Bay, Alaska.

Oscar Nicholson, formerly superintendent of Petersburg

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Canneries Operated (cont'd)

Packing Company, leased and operated plant of Wrangell Narrows Packing Company, located in Wrangell Narrows, Scow Bay.

Canneries Not Operated

The plants of the Alaska Pacific Fisheries, at Burnett Inlet, and the Columbia River Packers Association at Lake Bay did not operate again this season. The Petersburg Packing Company (PAF) at Petersburg was not operated during the season of 1932. The fact that these plants were idle was due largely to unfavorable market conditions.

S A L M O N P A C K
(Season of 1932.....)

(Basis 1-lb. cans, 48 cans to case)

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>King</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Steelhead</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wrangel Pkg. Corp.	0	703	23,641	16,525	681	0	41,550
Diamond K Pkg. Co.	0	4,407	11,907	3,876	1,247	31	21,468
Nakat Pkg. Corp.	0	3,780	77,038	12,899	3,025	0	96,742
O. Nicholson	<u>0</u>	<u>1,535</u>	<u>13,447</u>	<u>3,165</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19,835</u>
	0	10,425	126,033	36,465	6,641	31	179,595

Salmon Counting Weirs

Anan Creek

During the period from May 7 to June 4, preparations were underway for the installation of the weir. Supplies and material were assembled at Wrangell and transported to the Anan Creek weir site, where special workmen leveled the stream bed, cut and stacked brush, and gathered and hauled rock, building up a filled-in foundation, protected with submerged bulkheads. A fish pen, 8 ft. by 12 ft. was constructed in connection with the weir for the purpose of detaining ascending salmon for examination of dorsal and adipose fins for marks. On June 18, the construction of the weir and fish pen was completed. The progress of

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the work throughout was greatly retarded by continuous rains and high water conditions. During the count, the weir stood five high-water tests, when the stream surface rose to the top of the pickets. On September 1, the water was running over the weir 22 inches above the pickets, but the weir stayed in place.

On June 19, seven steelheads were counted through the weir. It is estimated that 150 steelheads ascended the stream prior to this date, during the time when construction work was underway. Pinks were considerably later this year than last. The first pinks were observed in the lagoon June 12, but were late entering the stream. On July 5, one king and 10 pinks were counted through the weir, while pinks first appeared at the weir in 1931 on June 17. The main run of pinks was on from August 6 through August 14, during which period 53,201 pinks were counted through the weir, the peak of the run coming on August 9, when 8,291 pinks were counted. The pink count for the season totaled 132,351 as against 613,598 in 1931. After August 20, there was a steady decline in the run until September 7, when the work of dismantling the weir was begun.

There were 13,965 fish handled from the pen and inspected for marked dorsal and adipose fins. During the season, two marked pink salmon were taken from the pen, and one marked pink salmon was observed going through the weir gate. These were preserved and turned over to Dr. Frederick A. Davidson.

It is estimated that an additional 3,000 pinks spawned during the latter part of the season in the area between the first and second falls. A peculiarity of the entire pink run was, that while last year the fish were large and strong and of uniform size, this season the fish were small, as a whole, and of variable size.

The Anan weir count for the season was as follows:

Reds.....	15
Kings.....	93
Pinks.....	132,351
Cohos.....	2,015
Chums.....	80
Steelheads....	36

Mr. Kenneth C. Lewis, transferred temporarily from the Yes Bay Hatchery, acted as foreman in charge of operations at this weir.

Olive Cove

From June 1 to 12th, having in mind the continuous rains, considerable was accomplished in the way of removing two log jams in Olive Cove Creek between the falls and the weir site, improving the falls for the ascent of fish, working on the trail, and clearing up the grounds around the weir site and Dr. Davidson's laboratory. During this time, a supply of wood was cut, and lumber and other supplies were packed up from the salt water landing to the weir site. High water

*St. Lawrence
improvement
ment*

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and inclement weather necessitated the laying off of the men temporarily after June 12 until the water had subsided sufficiently to begin the installation of the weir.

A special pen, similar to the one at Anan Creek, was built in connection with the weir. This pen was for the purpose of holding the fish for scientific study and to examine all fish taken for marked dorsal and adipose fins. Construction of the weir and fish pen was started June 17, and was completed June 28.

The first salmon were noted in the creek below the falls, July 4, and on July 9 a small school appeared at the head of Olive Cove. The first count was made on July 18, when 104 pinks passed through the gates. The main part of the run materialized between July 23 and July 27. Olive Cove experienced a light run in comparison with the two previous years. A count of 2,491 pinks on July 24 marked the peak of the run. Counting was continued through September 7, when the total count for the season was as follows:

Reds.....	6
Pinks....	19,086
Cohos....	71
Chums....	1,046

A conservative estimate of the number of pinks which spawned in stream area below weir to falls, in addition to the above actual count, would be around 1,200.

As in previous years, Walter Campen was in charge of weir construction and counting operations.

Complaints and Prosecutions

Chas. J. Deveney, operator of gas boat ERA No. 1544, was apprehended at 2 o'clock p.m., June 24, 1932, at Southeast entrance to Salmon Bay, Alaska, carrying aboard said boat ERA a small seine 35 fathoms long and 100 4-in. meshes deep. The seine was seized by Capt. L. J. Collins and taken aboard the U.S.F.S. AUKLET. The following day, June 25, the case was filed vs. Chas. J. Deveney, defendant, for violation of fisheries regulation 5, North Prince of Wales Island District, Dept. Cir. No. 251, 18th Edition. Defendant plead guilty, signed release of purse seine seized, and was given a 6 months' suspended sentence, together with court costs, \$3.95.

At 6:30 o'clock a.m. June 24, Capt. J. T. McBride, master of chartered boat LADY LUCK, found a short piece of special 5-in. mesh gill net anchored in a pot hole at head of Salmon Bay proper, near mouth of a red salmon stream. Captain McBride concealed himself awaiting the arrival of the owner to claim the net. By 10 o'clock no one had appeared to claim the net, so Captain McBride

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reported his findings to Capt. Collins who had just previously anchored in Salmon Bay. They picked up the net, containing 285 red salmon. These fish were sold and delivered to the highest bidder, Diamond K Packing Company, the morning of June 25 at 10 cents per fish, the current market price. Check from Diamond K Packing Company for \$28.50 was made payable to John Dunn, Clerk of Court, and turned over to the U. S. Commissioner.

Few violations occurred this year. The general curtailment of commercial fisheries operations was largely responsible for this condition. Moreover, there was an abundance of dog and pink salmon in most of the recognized good seining grounds open to commercial fishing, which gave no incentive for breaking the law for these cheaper species. Throughout the season, a constant patrol was maintained, and this was aimed particularly at certain locally acknowledged poachers who endeavor to take reds principally because of the higher price paid for this species.

Summary of Runs and Escapement

Summer Strait District: The run and escapement into all streams of Summer Strait, including Salmon Bay and the Northwest Arm, was very good, with the exception of Barry Creek, Lovelness Creek, Mission Creek, Seclusion Harbor, and Three-Mile Arm, where the escapement was considered adequate.

Wrangell Narrows: Escapement into Petersburg Creek and Blind River was heavy, and into the smaller tributaries of this locality it was good.

Duncan Canal: The pink salmon run into Duncan Canal was good, while, as was the case in Wrangell Narrows, the dog salmon run was heavy.

Clarence Strait: The run and escapement on the east shore of Prince of Wales Island, including Whale Passage, Lake Bay, Eagle Creek, and Ratz Harbor, was very good. On the west shore of Etolin Island, all streams experienced a good run.

Ernest Sound and Bradfield Canal: Streams in Ernest Sound showed a good run and escapement. Bradfield Canal streams experienced a very good escapement, with the exception of Anan Creek, Harding River, and Rools Inlet, which was considered light, while in McHenry and Menefee Inlets it was very good. Crittenden Creek, the only worthwhile stream in Eastern Passage, had a good escapement.

Zimovia and Stikine Straits: In the streams on the south and southwest shores of Etolin Island, including Burnett and Mosmann Inlets and Rocky Bay, there was a very good escapement. Other streams had a good escapement, with the exception of Snake Creek (Olive Cove), which was light.

The run and escapement of all species of salmon into the Stikine River Proper was considered fair, with the exception of pinks, which was light.

Red salmon are increasing the past three years in all recognized streams which carry this species.

Petersburg Creek, Barry Creek, Rocky Bay Creek, Eagle Creek, Ratz Harbor, and Thoms Place all experienced a very good red salmon escapement this year.

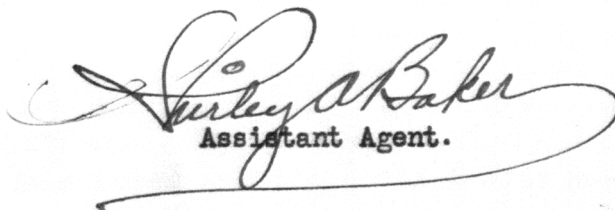
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Personnel Wrangell District, Season 1932

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>No. Days</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>(Less 8 1/3%)</u>
Frank Reed.....	Anan Creek and Lake Bay--	51	\$7.	\$ 357.00
do.	Whale Passage	48	6.	264.00
James Clark.....	Anan Creek and Duncan Canal	58	6.	331.00
do.		20	7.	140.00
Albert Anderson.....	Anan Creek	42	6.	252.00
Wm. A. Vreeland.....	Anan Creek and Stikine River	7	7.	49.00
do.		91	6.	517.50
Wm. C. Lawrence.....	Anan Creek and Salmon Bay	87	6.	494.50
Jack Pratt.....	Anan Creek	37	6.	222.00
do.		52	5.	238.33
John Sandman.....	Thoms Place	7	7.	49.00
do.		55	6.	302.50
Walter Campen.....	Olive Cove	27	7.	189.00
do.		72	6.	396.00
Wm. F. Campen.....	Olive Cove	22	6.	132.00
do.		2	5.	9.16
George Frabricius.....	Olive Cove	41 1/3	6.	227.33
Louis L. Larsen.....	Anita Bay and Conks Creek	17	6.	95.00
do.		4	5.	18.33
John D. McCullough.....	Wrangell	1	6.	6.00
Jack A. Kelley.....	Eagle Creek	60	6.	330.00
Peter Peterson.....	Barrie Creek, Seclusion Harbor and Ernest Sound	66	6.	363.00
Elmer F. Carlstrom.....	Rocky Bay	60.	6.	330.00
Olaf H. Nelson.....	Wrangell Narrows	47	6.	258.50
John Berg Olsen.....	Kah Sheets Bay	40	6.	220.00
Gus Lundgren.....	Ratz Harbor	44	6.	242.00
C. Paul MacCreary.....	Anan Creek	57	5.	262.24
Harry C. Cook.....	McHenry Inlet, Union Bay-- Bear Creek	27	6.	148.50
Harry P. Hope.....	Totem Bay	27	6.	148.50
			1,169 1/3	\$6,592.39

Copy to Seattle Office

• " Juneau Office


Assistant Agent.